

Storm breaks out in Knesset

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (AFP). — A storm broke out in the Israeli parliament today when a member called for the dismissal of two ministers accused in court for a corruption trial of having exerted pressure to secure funds for the ruling Labour Party. The call came from Yigal Horowitz, a member of the rightwing opposition Likud group, and referred to Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and Education Minister Aharon Yadin. Mr. Horowitz also demanded that an investigating committee be appointed to question the heads of Labour Federation enterprises on whether they contributed funds to the ruling party. Members from the government benches quickly came to the defence of the two ministers, and the house agreed to a committee examination of Mr. Horowitz's request.

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OPEC denies price agreement

VIENNA, Feb. 16 (AFP). — An OPEC spokesman today flatly denied press reports from Kuwait that the OPEC Economic Committee now meeting here had reached agreement "of principle" on ways to end the dispute over the current two-tier oil price system. The spokesman said that the question of oil prices was not on the agenda of experts from the 13 member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries forming the Economic Committee. The Kuwait daily Al Siyassah reported today that the Economic Committee had agreed in principle on a compromise under which OPEC's basic crude price would be raised by eight per cent on average compared with last December's level in order to terminate the two-tier price system.

Lebanese truce team clamps tight controls on Palestinians

Syrian troops return to Nabatiyeh following Israeli bombardment

BEIRUT, Feb. 16 (AFP). — Stricter controls on all Palestinians in Lebanon have been imposed by the four-member Arab Truce Supervisory Committee which has been considering a fresh interpretation of the 1969 Lebanese-Palestinian Cairo agreement, well-informed sources said here today.

The committee, which met in a special session here today under the chairmanship of Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, formally initiated its report which amounted, sources said, to a re-writing of the original agreement.

The new interpretation of the agreement, as proposed by the quadripartite committee, defined very strict controls on the presence, movement and activities of Palestinian refugees and militiamen in Lebanon, the sources said.

The commander of the Arab peace-keeping force, Col. Ahmad Haj has been given the responsibility of implementing the committee's proposals.

During the meeting, Col. Haj read a report to the committee on the latest incidents which occurred in the area of the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Beirut.

Reliable sources said that Col. Haj had since reached an agreement with the Palestinian resistance movements on heavy weapons still in their hands in these refugee camps.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had reportedly accepted the responsibility of surrendering these heavy arms to the Arab peace-keeping force, the sources said.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Sidon, in southern Lebanon, today that the Syrian-dominated peace-keeping force was back in position at Nabatiyeh, the town from which it withdrew only last Sunday.

The withdrawal followed protests from Israel about the closeness of the Syrian troops to its border with Lebanon.

However, reliable sources in Sidon said that the Lebanese troops who had replaced the Syrians were pulled out again last night after Israeli artillery had bombarded the town since yesterday morning. The Israeli bombardment which ended this morning had struck other villages in the Nabatiyeh region, the report from Sidon said.

"No change in Israel's position," Rabin says after meeting Vance

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (AFP). — A peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict could convene "in the latter half of this year," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after talks here today with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

But Mr. Rabin stated that "there is no change in Israel's policy of refusing to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said he told Mr. Vance that Israel cannot for security reasons give back all the Arab territory it occupied in 1967.

Mr. Vance began a six-nation tour of the Middle East in Israel yesterday and conferred for a total of three and a half hours with Mr. Rabin today.

It was announced that Mr. Rabin would visit the United States early next month and Mr. Vance told journalists that President Jimmy Carter would invite all heads of state from the region to visit the U.S.

"I think that the Americans want to bring about a Geneva conference in the second half of 1977 and we agree on this. I hope that the Geneva conference will convene this year," Mr. Rabin said.

Neither Mr. Rabin nor Mr. Vance gave any indication as to how the two countries hoped to overcome the major stumbling block in reconvening the Geneva conference — participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mr. Vance was more circumspect in his brief statement on the meeting, describing it as "thorough, helpful and useful."

"We have discussed the military situation and a number of related problems as well as economic problems and other subjects of common interest between our two countries," Mr. Vance said.

"I think that I now have a much clearer understanding of the position of Israel with respect to a number of issues relating to the search for peace. I now look forward to moving on to other countries to try and obtain a similar thorough and searching review in those capitals," he said.

Informed sources here said an Israeli leader, who was not identified, told Mr. Vance that the PLO must change its charter to recognise the biblical "covenant of Abraham" before Israel will agree to talks.

The "covenant of Abraham," is a reference to a passage in the book of Genesis, which makes Palestine "an everlasting possession" of the Jewish patriarchs.

Foreign Minister Allon told journalists "I have made it clear to Mr. Vance... that Israel will not return to the pre-1967 borders because they were not defensible."

Mr. Vance, he said, showed great interest in the notion of "defensible borders" and asked if Israel would accept guarantees attached to a peace agreement instead. "Guarantees have no efficiency," he was told.

Another issue raised by Mr. Vance was Israel's oil exploration activities in the gulf of Sur, Israeli sources said.

They said Mr. Vance asked the Israelis to permit Amoco, a division of the U.S. Standard Oil Company of Indiana, to carry out drilling on the basis of leases granted by Egypt in 1964 and 1967. He said Israel did not have any legal right to carry out explorations there.

The legal adviser of the Israel Foreign Ministry, Mr. Meir Rosen, replied that he had "another document which comes to the opposite conclusion," the sources said.

Mr. Vance, a New York lawyer before becoming secretary of state three weeks ago, lowered his glasses and looked around his room at the Foreign Ministry officials. "Did you ever

see two lawyers agree with each other?" he was quoted as asking.

Israeli sources said Mr. Vance had also informed the government here that President Carter planned to delay his decision on whether to sell the controversial concussion bombs to Israel until Mr. Vance returned to Washington.

Officials here were told that any decision at this time would undermine Mr. Vance's tour which includes visits to five Arab countries, the sources said. They added that officials here believed the U.S. would decide against the sale.

Questioned about differences on these issues, Mr. Rabin told newsmen "These are all peripheral issues." He went on to say: "The major issues are: 1. what are the goals of the diplomatic efforts?

2. what is the U.S. support for Israel in military supplies?

3. what is the U.S. financial support?"

On the last point, Mr. Rabin confirmed to newsmen he received assurances from Mr. Vance that the Carter administration planned to request an additional \$285 million in aid to Israel on top of the \$1.5 billion requested by the Ford administration.

Syria, Romania agree tangible steps towards M.E. peace imperative Joint communique says PLO must attend Geneva

DAMASCUS, Feb. 16 (R). — Syria and Romania today declared that any delay in taking tangible measures to achieve Middle East peace would have consequences impossible to control, affecting world peace and security.

This was contained in a joint communique on the visit to Romania of President Hafez Assad, who returned home today after talks in Bucharest with President Nicolae Ceausescu.

It said the two presidents had a profound exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East. They considered that there were now suitable conditions for the political and diplomatic action needed to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

The two countries stressed the need to resume the Geneva peace conference with all

sides concerned taking part on the same footing, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

They pointed out that the achievement of peace must be based on Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and respect for the rights of the Palestinians, including their right to set up an independent state.

Syria and Romania stressed the need to promote the role of the United Nations in the settlement of the Middle East crisis.

The communique said President Ceausescu paid tribute to President Assad's efforts to bring about a just and lasting peace and restore stability to Lebanon.

President Assad invited his Romanian host to pay an official visit to Syria. A date is to be fixed later.

Badran meets Soviet envoy to discuss Mideast situation

AMMAN (Agencies). — Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko Wednesday conferred with premier Mudar Badran on the Middle East and prospects for a Geneva peace conference.

Mr. Sytenko, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern Department, is on a fact-finding tour of the region which has already taken him to Egypt and Syria. He plans to go to Lebanon next.

In the talks, Mr. Badran stated Jordan's position on a just and durable peace in the Middle East, namely Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as laid down in United Nations resolutions and provision of the necessary guarantees to all parties concerned to ensure peace in the region.

Premier Badran expressed Jordan's readiness to participate at Geneva as a confrontation state and to exert every positive effort to make the conference a success.

He said participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at the conference is essential and will effectively contribute towards the achievement of a comprehensive settlement.

Mr. Sytenko briefed the prime minister on the fundamentals of Soviet policy and the conditions needed to achieve success at the Geneva meeting.

The discussions were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and the viewpoints of the two sides were similar, it was stressed. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Guiringaud begins tour with talks in Mideast Lebanon

BEIRUT, Feb. 16 (R). — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud arrived here tonight at the start of a Middle East tour aimed at establishing what can do to help settle the Middle East conflict.

French officials said Beirut was chosen as the first stop of M. de Guiringaud's tour to delineate the close and friendly links between the two countries. Lebanon became independent from French rule in 1943.

In a radio interview on the eve of his visit, M. de Guiringaud said that 1977 offered better circumstances than ever for a search for peace in the volatile Middle East.

However, President Hafez said of Syria, where M. de Guiringaud is due next Friday, "I did in the Romanian capital of Bucharest last night that Israel is trying to provoke a new military confrontation with its Arab neighbours."

He told a banquet given by manian President Nicolae Ceausescu that such a confrontation might become imminent. Israel failed to withdraw from occupied Arab territories, and there was no settlement of a Palestinian problem.

M. de Guiringaud was welcomed at Beirut International Airport — reopened last November after a prolonged closure during a 19-month civil war — by Lebanese opposition number, Ad. Butros.

Mr. Butros, was later giving dinner for his French guest at

the Foreign Ministry in the eastern part of Beirut.

In his interview last night, with the French commercial radio Monte Carlo, M. de Guiringaud said his talks with Arab leaders would concentrate on sounding out their opinions on prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

He added his tour had no economic aspects, since there were already economy agreements between France and the four countries he is to visit.

But observers here said that the possibility of French help in rebuilding the war-shattered Lebanese economy was likely to figure in M. de Guiringaud's talks with Mr. Butros, President Elias Sarkis and Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss.

The civil war in Lebanon has caused losses estimated at up to \$5 billion, with the commercial district and the adjoining port left in total ruin.

Two teams of French experts had talks here last month — one to discuss prospects of French aid in rebuilding the shattered port, the other to study what assistance France can give in the field of education.

M. de Guiringaud's programme tomorrow provides for almost two hours of talks with Mr. Butros followed by a meeting with the prime minister and talks with President Sarkis.

On Friday, the French minister is scheduled to visit French cultural institutions and have

GISCARD INVITES RABIN TO PARIS

PARIS, Feb. 16 (R). — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has invited Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to come to France on an official visit, officials said here today.

Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud, on a tour of four Arab capitals, conveyed the invitation on behalf of the French president to Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon during a meeting in Brussels last week, the officials said.

The visit is expected to take place either before or immediately after general elections due in Israel in May.

Archbishop Makarios is ready to resign as President of Cyprus as soon as the dispute with the Turkish-Cypriots is settled, he said in an interview published here today.

He told the Greek newspaper Eleftheotypia that he is willing to resign "immediately after the signing of an agreement guaranteeing peaceful coexistence of the Greek and Turkish communities on Cyprus in the framework of a state that is truly unified and independent."

Archbishop Makarios said he informed Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş of this when they conferred four days ago.

"I know very well that the very idea of seeing me continue presiding over a Cypriot federal republic makes the hair stand up on the head of many figures in world politics," Archbishop Makarios was quoted as saying.

"People are convinced, in Europe and the United States as well as in Turkey, that my intransigence makes me the main obstacle to the solving of the Cyprus affair..."

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt "admitted to me that he would prefer seeing me tend solely to my ecclesiastical duties," the president said.

He said he did not exclude the possibility of a Cyprus agreement being reached by early

next year. Negotiations between the two ethnic communities will resume in Vienna at the end of March.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Jimmy Carter's special envoy to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, Clark Clifford, arrived in Vienna today for talks tomorrow with visiting U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Before leaving for Athens on the first leg of his fact-finding tour, Mr. Clifford will tomorrow review the Cyprus situation with Mr. Waldheim currently on an official visit to Austria.

While emphasising that the Cyprus problem did not jeopardise North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) interests, the U.S. envoy confirmed that his talks in Athens and Ankara would also deal with issues concerning the Atlantic Alliance.

On an optimistic note, Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Sahin said that the PLO must change its charter to recognise the biblical "covenant of Abraham" before Israel will agree to talks.

The "covenant of Abraham," is a reference to a passage in the book of Genesis, which makes Palestine "an everlasting possession" of the Jewish patriarchs.

Arafat ready to accept West Bank, Gaza state, U.N. official says

BELGRADE, Feb. 16 (AFP). — Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is prepared to accept a Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza, a United Nations spokesman said here today.

Rudi Stajduhar, spokesman for U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, said Mr. Arafat had informed Dr. Waldheim of his readiness to accept such a state.

Mr. Arafat's attitude, which the spokesman described as "particularly flexible," amounted to "indirect" or "indirect recognition of the Israeli state."

Mr. Stajduhar said he expected the Geneva conference on peace in the Middle East to be reconvened this summer.

Dr. Waldheim's just-ended tour of the area yielded a series of positive results, he said, "despite the absence of solutions to key problems, concerning PLO participation in the Geneva talks."

Dr. Waldheim set out a framework for political talks and consultations among all parties in the Middle East, including the two super-powers and the Basque country, where separatist or autonomist sentiment is strong.

USSR attends first Euro-Community meet

BRUSSELS, Feb. 16 (R). — The Soviet Union today explicitly recognised the existence of the European Common Market for the first time when negotiations opened here on an EEC-Soviet fishing agreement.

Diplomatic sources said Soviet Fisheries Minister Alexander Ishkov made it clear during the initial discussions that his government had come to Brussels to negotiate with the community.

So far the Russians have avoided formal recognition of the EEC and have limited their contacts to its nine member governments.

Mr. Ishkov's statement is regarded here as a major diplomatic breakthrough by the EEC side.

New initiative on Rhodesia imminent to break deadlock

PE TOWN, Feb. 16 (AFP). — South African, British and American governments will discuss a new initiative on Rhodesia that could have reaching consequences in whole of Southern Africa, Foreign Minister Hilgard Muller said here today.

South Africa would do all it could to bring about a peaceful solution in Rhodesia, Muller said, adding that the stinging between representatives of the three governments will take place in the very near future.

He did not confirm reports in Washington this week that South African Ambassador Foreign Minister-designate Botha would meet soon with a British representative Assistant U.S. Secretary of State William Schaufele.

But I can say discussions probably be taking place in

the very near future," Dr. Muller said.

Dr. Muller said Pretoria had gone out of its way to get the warring parties in Rhodesia together around the conference table again.

Although the Geneva conference, which brought the parties together had proved a failure, Dr. Muller said the new initiative had come about through recent further contacts between the two warring groups.

He said South Africa's detente and international relations with other African countries would greatly improve once the issues of Rhodesia and Namibia were solved.

He said he did not believe South Africa had been left in the lurch by Western powers, because the country was strategically important.

In a tribute to Foreign Minister-designate P. Botha, Dr. Muller said he was comforted

to know he was leaving office in the knowledge that the foreign minister portfolio would be in good and experienced hands.

Spanish opposition, Suarez get along easily after Carrillo's withdrawal

From Commission of 10

MADRID, Feb. 16 (AFP). — The Spanish government may announce the date of parliamentary elections next week, political sources said today.

They said the vote could be held at the end of May. Broad agreement was reached on Monday on a new electoral law to cover the government.

Political sources indicated that Mr. Carrillo's decision also averted a crisis inside the "Commission of 10".

The statement said opposition leaders expressed satisfaction over the way the government was going about legalising political parties. The moves showed the government's will "to recognise all political forces that are legal in a democratic country," it added.

The Communists, still technically an underground organisation, have applied for legal status like other parties.

Enrique Mugica, a Socialist Workers' Party (FSOE) leader, said after the meeting that the opposition leaders also discussed the question of an amnesty

for political prisoners. The question of Basque political prisoners must be settled before elections, he declared.

"All of these prisoners must be let out of prison, either as the result of a general amnesty measure or through a review of their trials," Mr. Mugica stated.

Today's moves came amid reports that Dolores Ibarruri, 81, a leading figure of the Spanish Communist movement, was preparing to return today to Spain after almost 40 years as an exile in Moscow.

Known as "La Pasionaria", Mrs. Ibarruri was expected to return here within the next 10 to 15 days, the Madrid newspaper Diario 16 reported today. She is president of the Communist Party.

It said she had "already packed her suitcases."

Mr. Carrillo received a passport from the government yesterday. He is free on bail on charges of belonging to an illegal organisation after being arrested last year while living clandestinely in Spain.

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NEWS FOCUS

Filipino Christians worried about possible outcome of negotiations with the island's Moslem rebels

By Colin Bickler

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Southern Philippines, Feb. 16, (R). — For the moment, the guns of the Moslem rebels are silent and land mines have been dug up.

Calm has descended in the southern Philippines while the negotiators are at work thousands of miles away in Tripoli, Libya. But hopes for the future are tempered by anxieties expressed by Christian leaders.

The aim of negotiations is to end the Moslem insurgency that has cost thousands of lives during the past four years. The rebels were fighting for recognition of Moslem minority rights in the predominantly Christian Philippines.

The Tripoli talks, which opened early this month, are between representatives of the Philippines government and the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi and members of the Islamic Nations Conference are helping to bring about a reconciliation.

Details of the establishment of an autonomous region in the southern Philippines, where most of the country's two to four million Moslems live, is one major issue to be settled. And that is causing anxiety to Christians living in island areas of the southern Philippines where there are large Moslem populations, according to church sources here.

"What worries us in particular is just what sort of autonomy the region will get. Will it be Islamic and will there be special safeguards for Christians?" A high-ranking Roman Catholic clergyman asked.

He told Reuters the church believed the Moslems had many

grievances that must be put right.

Under the ceasefire agreement reached in earlier talks in Tripoli, autonomy is to be granted to 13 southern provinces, even though the Moslems form a majority in only five of these.

In at least two of the Moslem-dominated provinces — the Tawi Tawi and Sulu Island groups — there apparently is no major problem because the Christians have established some sort of working report, the sources said.

The anxieties seem to be greatest in Basilan Island, just off Mindanao, and in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur on Mindanao, where there are sizeable Christian minorities, and in Zamboanga del Sur Zamboanga del Norte, where there are sizeable Moslem minorities.

One churchman explained that on Basilan Island, Christians owned a lot of land "and land problems are a basic cause of the tension not only with Christians but also among Moslems of different ethnic backgrounds."

Basilan Island — which foreigners still need special military permission to visit because of the security problems — already has a Moslem governor and four of its six mayors are Moslems.

They too are said to be anxious about their future in an autonomous region controlled by the MNLF, because they fear the rebels will want political posts for their own followers.

The preliminary agreement provides that autonomy must be within the framework of the Philippines constitution in which church and state are separate, even though more than 80 per cent of the country's 44

million people are Roman Catholic.

Exactly how the autonomy will be granted and how the region's proposed elected assembly will be set up is at the heart of the Tripoli talks which are supposed to be completed by March 3.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has proposed holding a plebiscite in the 13 provinces to see if all or any want to be part of the autonomous region.

One rebel leader said, however, that no provision was made in the preliminary agreement for a referendum and the MNLF was against the idea — apparently mindful that it remained a minority in the region as a whole and that there is some question of just how many Moslems recognise the movement.

Some 26,000 former MNLF members have quit the movement since the rebellion began in 1972, and many now have jobs with the government.

The country has been under martial law since 1972 and the rebel leaders ask how a free referendum could be held under such conditions.

The president has not waited for the talks, however, in trying to establish his good faith.

He has already issued a decree setting up special Moslem religious courts to settle marriage, divorce and family inheritance problems.

Everyone in this part of the country is enjoying the new-found calm and hoping fighting will not be resumed.

But the armed rebels are still in the hills and the army — partly engaged now in civic action and rehabilitation work — is still on alert.

Waldheim: Disarmament prospects improve

GENEVA, Feb. 16, (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim told the Geneva Disarmament Conference yesterday prospects appeared to have improved for banning chemical weapons and underground nuclear tests — major unattained objectives of the 30-nation gathering.

There seemed to be greater readiness by the two nuclear superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, to reach a test ban agreement, and fresh approaches made the outlook more encouraging for outlawing the most lethal chemical arms, he said.

A U.N. official read Mr. Waldheim's message at the opening of the 1977 session of the conference, which brings together Western, Communist and neutral nations under the co-chairmanship of the Soviet Union and the U.S.

Mr. Waldheim said the Russians and the Americans recently indicated they were willing to overcome a deadlock over on-site inspections of suspect underground upheavals which for years has blocked agreement on banning nuclear tests below the earth.

A 1963 accord outlawed nuclear blasts in the atmosphere, outer space and under water. But attempts to extend the ban to underground explosions have foundered on Soviet-American differences over how to guard against cheating.

"There seems to be now a greater readiness to reach an accord in this area. Difficulties may remain, but I would express the hope that this committee make a very determined effort towards achieving a comprehensive test ban," Mr. Waldheim said.

Although he made no specific

references to them, the encouraging signs Mr. Waldheim had in mind, were believed to include recent statements by U.S. President Jimmy Carter that he wants to reach agreement soon with the Soviet Union to ban all nuclear weapons tests, possibly for an initial period of three or four years.

On prospects for negotiations on a chemical weapons ban, stalled for four years, Mr. Waldheim said, "the situation now appears more encouraging than in the past in the light of fresh approaches — and new proposals on this subject."

"I therefore sincerely hope that substantial progress can be made at this session toward banning the most lethal of these weapons in the general framework of an agreement that all such weapons would be banned as soon as adequate compliance procedures could be worked out."

Third Circle phantasmic Getting to know you... By Omar Jawad

There is nothing quite so exciting as a Middle East tour by an American secretary of state, whoever he may be. Most people follow the hectic meetings of the distinguished American envoy as he tries to prod peace between the Arabs and the Israelis. But I have had one of my little spies do some research into a little-known aspect of these trips — life aboard the official airplane that carries the secretary of state everywhere he goes.

In fact, my special agent, a stealthy fellow, was able to sneak onto Mr. Cyrus Vance's airplane this week before it left Washington for the Middle East, and he has just sent me a very interesting report that I would like to share with my readers. What he sent, in fact, was a tape recording made during a highly secret aerial tour of the Middle East that Mr. Vance made last week, in order to take a preliminary look at the area from the air and scan the landscape, so to speak. My sneaky agent planted a microphone in Mr. Vance's necktie, and thereby was able to send me the entire conversation of that secret trip. Here are the most interesting portions of the tape.

Vance: Have we reached the Middle East yet, pilot?

Pilot: We're almost there, Mr. secretary: where would you like me to fly over first?

Vance: Well, why don't we swing over Moscow so I can see if the Commies are putting up any new mobile missiles.

Pilot: Uh, Mr. secretary, we don't go to the Soviet Union until next month. We're going to the Middle East this week, and you'd better learn the names of those countries on this practice flight or some of those Middle Easterners may be offended. And, uh, I don't think you should call them Commies now that you're the secretary of state.

Vance: Yeah, you're probably right. OK, let's swing over Lebanon first, maybe seeing Cyprus on the way, and then we can go down the coast to Israel and Egypt before we move inland.

Sixshooter Watson (top CIA briefing man on the Middle East): Mr. secretary, we're coming over Nicosia now, and we're flying right along the green line so you can see both the Turkish and the Greek parts of the island.

Vance: Wow, will you look at that? They must be having a boy scout jamboree. Look at all those tents, and so neatly lined up!

Sixshooter: Those aren't boy scout tents, sir, they're Greek-Cypriot refugees. But we're not going to deal with the Cyprus problem on this trip, so we can leave this one for another time. But look over there.

Vance: Mamma mia, it must be some sort of holiday down there with all those firecrackers going off, and those bonfires.

Sixshooter: Uh, no sir, that's Beirut you see down there, and it looks like those people in Lebanon are fighting again.

Vance: Oh, no, Sixshooter, you mean we have to worry about that Lebanese war all over again? When we get back home, why don't you remind me to have some more baseball films sent to our cultural centre in Beirut. Maybe that'll give these people a chance to see some of the peaceful and enjoyable ways they can spend their time, instead of fighting all the time.

Sixshooter: Yes, sir, I'll make a note of that.

Pilot: Mr. secretary, we're approaching the Israeli border now, and if you look along the Lebanese coastline you'll see some Palestinian refugee camps down there.

Vance: Dive! Dive! Turn this plane around! Don't fly over those terrorist camps, whatever you do!

Sixshooter: Mr. secretary, take it easy. We're not in any danger if we just fly over to take a look. After all, we're up at 45,000 feet.

Vance: Yeah, I know; but you know what will happen in Israel if we tell them we flew over a terrorist training centre? When Golda gets me in her kitchen, she'll tear me to pieces. You know we can't fly over any Palestinian terrorist installations before the PLO recognises Israel. If we do, everyone will think we're recognising the terrorists. Dive! Dive!

Sixshooter: Mr. secretary, you're really touchy about that, aren't you? And by the way, Golda isn't prime minister any more. You better study up that briefing book I gave you before we make our official trip next week. It takes a look down to your left.

Vance: Holy cow! I can't believe it! I see that shot? It was like a bullet!

Sixshooter: Wow! It sure was a damn Pilot, can you take us down a little closer to a better look? There are people running over the place down there. What's going on?

Pilot: It's a football match, sir, between the Israelis and the Lebanese. They've been doing this for several months.

Vance: I bet if they can get that leftward in the open, and get the ball to him, could score every time. This is a great view. Tell me, pilot, do you think we can make an official visit next week in the Goodyear blimp? We might not take any political news back President Carter, but we'd sure be able to some fantastic football films for those al summer nights in the White House.

Sixshooter: Uh, Mr. secretary, turn slow and look out your window on the left side the plane, but don't be scared.

Vance: Dive! Dive! We're dead ducks! I your wings, pilot, throw some confetti out window, wave the white flag, do something. We're being attacked!

Sixshooter: Take it easy, Mr. secret those are only Israeli Phantoms, and they ways come up to see who's flying around their airspace. I think they recognise us, cause this official jet has been around Middle East many times before. See? I there, one of the Israeli pilots is waving at

Vance: Pilot! Pilot! Tell them we're Arabs! Tell them we'll give them another billion dollars, all the weapons they want, but sure they know we're not an Arab pilot. They'll shoot us down! Call Harry, and him what the hell we do in a spot like this.

Sixshooter: It's OK, sir, they've gone down. You will have to learn to make your composure in the Middle East. If you act like this down on the ground, we'll be in big trouble because everybody will laugh at us. Remember, sir, we are here as representatives of the United States with a mission try and help the parties to the Middle conflict find a peaceful solution to their dispute.

Vance: Whew! Man, was I scared! That's right, Sixshooter, we are representatives of the people of the United States America, on a mission to help bring peace this troubled region of the globe. Was right?

Sixshooter: Yes, that was very good, look over there, to your left, see those people down there? They're Egyptians.

Vance: Jeez, why are they burning buses?

Sixshooter: Domestic problems, sir. But will try and help them overcome their internal difficulties simultaneously, our attempts to bring peace to future generations of Arabs and Israelis.

Vance: Wait a minute, there were too big words in that sentence. Can't you say that one for me, at least for this first trip?

Sixshooter: OK. Here's what you do: we get off the plane at Cairo, you'll hear a one say, "Hello, my dear friend Cyrus." T be your cue. When you hear those words, the nearest tanned person around, hug him, and repeat several times, loud enough for the television microphones to hear, you want to see a belly dancer, a plump preferably, because that's how they like in this part of the world. Then put one of tabbouleh on your head, wrap it around your belt, and say that you come as a p maker. If that doesn't work, tell 'em you from the World Bank. That always works. Pilot, I think we'd better head back home have a lot of practicing to do before week

A very heavy price

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said in a Tel Aviv radio interview Tuesday that he thought participation of the PLO at the Geneva conference seemed "out of the question" because the PLO refused to recognise Israel. If Mr. Vance would stroll back a little in history with us, he would surely remember that negotiations took place for several years between the United States, the South Vietnamese government of Mr. Nguyen Van Thieu and the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of the Vietcong. As an official in the State Department during the 60's, Mr. Vance knew about the conduct of the Vietnam war, and surely he appreciates the intricacies and implications of negotiations among such parties. The same principles apply to the Middle East, and Mr. Vance now sits in the seat that Mr. Kissinger occupied during the Vietnam war years. It seems to us altogether hypocritical and humiliating for the American secretary of state to suggest that the PLO cannot talk to Israel because it does not recognise Israel, when the United States and Mr. Thieu talked to the PRG when similar recognition was lacking. Why does Mr. Vance ascribe rules to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that are more stringent than rules applied to negotiations the United States itself was involved in only a few years ago? Is Israel so special in the eyes of the United States that it can have the U.S. establish new international negotiating rules for it? Or have the Americans allowed themselves to be cornered by Israel once again? Is this the manner in which the United States has decided it is best qualified to spread liberty and freedom around the world? Has there been a top-level decision made in Washington to make up for the failure in Vietnam by doubling one's efforts to spread democracy in the Middle East? Were the lessons learned on the knees of Mr. Thieu so severe that the Arabs are being asked to help pay the price for them, because the United States itself cannot handle the entire burden by itself?

Mr. Vance shall learn with time that his job as America's secretary of state necessarily requires that he contradict the principles of his American republic nearly every time he opens his mouth to talk about the Israel-Arab conflict. He has already shown us this week that he is up to the job, and the spectacle is not a very pleasant one for us, for him or for the American people.

Is this, too, the price of Israel?

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

One of the Jordanian dailies Wednesday commented on the various declarations on the Middle East conflict delivered by Mr. Cyrus Vance during the past, and on their implications as to U.S. policy in the area, while a second daily wondered about the reasons behind the recent armed flare-up which took place in Lebanon.

AL RA'I, under the heading "Declarations and results", outlines the following points in Mr. Vance's declarations as being significant to any possible change in the future U.S. policy: His declaring that he had consulted with Moscow before starting on his Middle East tour means that the present peace process will be carried out under detente and not unilaterally by the U.S.; his confirmation of the importance of the role of the U.N. in the conflict and his reiteration to the Israeli press that any successful peace settlement should be based on the right of every country in the region to frontiers that are secure, of Israel's withdrawal and of the question of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

These declarations, the paper adds, are in direct contradiction with Israel's position, which tries to keep the U.S. as the only arbiter in the conflict, exclude the Soviet Union and the U.N. and reject discussing the rights or interests of the Palestinians as a separate question.

It is too soon to judge the results of such declaration, on the final U.S. Middle East policy or determine their effect on Israel. The only thing we can be sure about, the paper concludes, and the only position which can allow us to be optimistic is the Arab position for it is the only one which is within our hands.

AL DUSTOUR, discussing the armed disturbances which took place recently in Beirut, wonders whether their occurrence is just a coincidence or they have been timed to take place at a period when the region is witnessing an intense diplomatic activity.

This question becomes more pressing since no specific reason for such disturbances can be found, the paper says.

"When then?" the paper asks. Is it to create a tense situation in the region on the eve of the visits of Mr. Vance and Mr. de Gaulle? All parties in Lebanon have agreed, and are adhering to the Riyadh and Cairo summit resolutions on Lebanon. The only logical answer which remains, the paper says, is related to the negative results which the Lebanese crisis has had on the Arab influence in the world and has endangered the position of the Middle East conflict in being relegated to a second place of importance if the Syrian intervention and the summit conferences had not saved it from that position.

It appears, therefore, that what happens in Beirut is premeditated and aims at reducing Arab efforts to failure and at weakening their position vis-à-vis the international peace efforts currently underway.

The fomentors of troubles have the intention of convincing Mr. Vance and Mr. de Gaulle that the peace initiatives they are carrying through are premature and should wait a further settlement of the Lebanese crisis, the paper says.

The Arabs have a duty to counter these moves with determination, for if these moves succeed they, will freeze the peace process on which the Arabs have spent a great deal of effort to put it underway.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6 :	9:20 Quiz programme
6:00 Quran	10:15 Arabic film
6:05 Children's programme	Channel 6 :
6:30 English by television	7:30 News in Hebrew
7:00 Young Dr. Kildare	7:45 Varieties
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 A Swede in Paris
Channel 3 :	9:10 Feature film
7:30 Science and life	10:00 News in English
8:30 Arabic series	10:15 Cont. of feature

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	14:45 15 weekly
7:00 Morning melodies	15:00 Concert hour
7:30 News	16:00 Old favourites
7:40 News reports	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Play of the week
12:00 Pop session	17:30 Pop session
13:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:05 Pop session
14:00 News	18:30 Science report
14:10 Radio magazine	19:00 News
14:30 Music made easy	19:10 News report
	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors :	Nuzha (30237)
Amman :	Jamil (37291)
A. Salam Abu Ard (38073)	Shaban (36776)
Z. Maria Shannak (37929)	Irbid :
Irbid :	Yarmuk
Mohammad Youssef Taani	Zarqa :
Ghazi Obaidat	Hayat
Zarqa :	Jerusalem
Ghazi Fayyad	Taxis :
Pharmacies :	Rainbow (37249)
Amman :	Ahli (21127)
Jabal Nasr (56728)	Talal (25021)
	Asfour (23230)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals :	Departures :	GMT
8:00 Cairo (EA)	6:10 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)	03:00
8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain	ankfurt (Lufthansa)	to 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and
8:40 Dhahran, Kuwait	Beirut	06:00 GMT : News, 19:00
8:50 Baghdad	8:00 Beirut (MEA)	Regional and Topical
10:50 Beirut	8:45 Cairo (EA)	Reports, VOA Current
11:25 Rawalpindi (BA)	10:00 Athens, Madrid	News Summary, 03:30, 19:30
16:00 Kuwait (KAC)	10:30 Cairo	04:30 and 05:30 GMT : An
16:20 Aqaba	12:25 London (BA)	informal presentation of
17:00 Cairo	12:30 Rome, Paris	popular music and 20:15
17:10 London	14:30 Aqaba	interviews, reports and 21:00
17:40 Copenhagen, Frankfurt	16:45 Kuwait (KAC)	listeners' questions, Sci-
18:55 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)	21:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)	ence Digest.
19:40 Beirut (MEA)		17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary
20:20 Riyadh (SDI)		17:30 Dateline

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	Tel.
Ambulance (government)	78111
Civil defence rescue	24591-4
Fire headquarters	22090
First aid, fire, police	19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-8
Police headquarters	39141
Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

	Tel.
American Centre (USIS)	41820
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	37090
Goethe Institute	41908
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Amman Municipal Library	36111

VOICE OF AMERICA

18:00	Special English. N
03:00	The Breakfast Show :
04:00, 04:00, 05:00 and	Feature : Science in
06:00 GMT : News, 19:00	News, News Summ
Regional and Topical	Now Music USA
Reports, VOA Current	News Roundup, Rep
News Summary, 03:30, 19:30	Actualities, Opinio
04:30 and 05:30 GMT : An	analyses.
informal presentation of	VOA Magazine, A
popular music and 20:15	canas, Science, Cul
interviews, reports and 21:00	Letters.
listeners' questions, Sci-	Special English. Ne
ence Digest.	Music USA (Jazz).
17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary	VOA World Rep
17:30 Dateline	to 21:00
	News ... newsa
	voices
	correspondents' ref
	... media comment
	news analyses.

BBC RADIO

13:30	Paperbacks
05:00	Radio Theatre
05:30	13:45
05:45	Matthew on Music
06:00	Radio Newsreel
06:30	15:15
News; Press Review	15:00
An Anthology of British	15:15
Choirs	15:15
07:00	News; 24 hours
07:30	16:15
07:45	16:15
08:00	16:15
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هذه احدى النسخ

LOOK OF THE LAND

Jordan through the camera's eye



Cabinet forms project follow-up committee

MAN (JNA). — In its meeting chaired by Premier Mu-Badran Wednesday, the Cabinet decided to form a ministerial committee to study Jordanian development projects and follow up their implementation.

The committee consists of Premier Mu-Badran as Chairman; Minister of State for Prime Affairs; the Ministers of Finance, Industry and Commerce, Transport; the Governor of the Central Bank; and President of the National Planning Council.

The Cabinet also chose Jordan's delegation to the second conference of Arab health ministers, due to open in Libya on 20. It consists of Under Secretary at the Health Ministry, Dr. Khaled Al Shami and Ministry's Administrative Director Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh.

The Cabinet decided during same meeting on the app-

pointment of Mr. Maulud Abdul Qader as Director of the Audit Department and Dr. Saleh Al Khasawneh as Director of the Income Tax Department.

The Cabinet also decided on the following personnel changes: Under Secretary at the Finance Ministry Suleiman Al Deiri

is to become Deputy Director of the Audit Department; Director of the Budget Department Farhi Obeid will become Under Secretary at the Finance Ministry; and Fawwaz Al Zu'bi of the Central Bank will become Director of the Budget Department.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — The National Planning Council has allocated JD 25,000 to the University of Jordan to carry out specialised economic and scientific study and research.

* AMMAN. — The acting secretary general at the Foreign Ministry Wednesday received in his office the Moroccan, French and British ambassadors in Amman.

* AMMAN. — Prince Hassan Wednesday morning paid a visit to the Chief Justice, Sheikh Abdallah Ghosheh. The meeting was attended by the director of the Shariah Department and president and members of the Shariah Court of Appeal.

* AMMAN. — A news seminar is to take place later this month in Abu Dhabi under the auspices of the United Nations. Jordan will be represented at the five-day seminar by Director General of Jordan News Agency Yusuf Abu Lein.

Arab media committee continues sessions

CAIRO (JNA). — The Permanent Committee on Arab Media will end its 31st meeting here Thursday.

In Wednesday's session the committee debated the remaining subjects on its agenda: It called for giving foreign pressmen all facilities available for covering the sessions of the first Afro-Arab summit due to open in Cairo March 17.

The committee also called for the working out of an information programme to back up Afro-Arab relations and for the promotion of Arab media in Africa through seminars and meetings among Arab and African media experts.

Al Quds newspaper states

Gaza mayor attacks Israeli policies

AMMAN (JNA). — In a cable to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Gaza Mayor Haj Rashad Shawwa denounced Israeli policy, which threatens the chances for peace in the region.

Jerusalem's Al Quds newspaper, which published the cable, added that at a time when intensive efforts are being exerted to reach a settlement in the Middle East, the Israeli authorities continue to annex and confiscate Arab lands and build new settlements to accommodate new immigrants.

Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin's statements to the effect that all settlements built on the occupied land are an integral part of Israel is more proof that Israel considers the act of judaizing Arab occupied lands as legal.

Al Quds added that Haj Shawwa praised all efforts to achieve a just settlement in the region based on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In his cable to Mr. Vance, he called for an end to Israel's policy of occupation and confiscation of lands and to irresponsible statements by Israeli officials on the Middle East crisis.

Satellite committee ends meet

CAIRO (JNA). — Arab communication ministers Wednesday wound up meetings of the first conference of the pan-Arab institution for Space Communications, which opened here last Monday under the chairmanship of Jordanian Minister of Communications Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh.

The conference elected members of the institute's administrative council.

In their last session, the ministers debated a report by the technical committee, formed Tuesday, which prepared specifications for Arab satellite due to be launched within the next three years.

The institution is based in Riyadh with a capital of \$100 million.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	563.0	569.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	138.7	139.1
French franc	66.7	67.0
Swiss franc	132.7	133.1
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.6	37.8
Saudi riyal	94.6	94.9
Lebanese pound	109.0	110.0
Syrian pound	81.9	82.2
Iraqi dinar	943.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1.153	1.158
Egyptian pound	470.0	478.0
Libyan dinar	790.0	805.0
UAE dirham	85.0	85.8

MASS ARRESTS FOLLOW HEBRON EXPLOSION

AMMAN (JNA). — Arrivals from the occupied West Bank said that the Israeli occupation authorities had launched mass arrests in Hebron following the explosion of two grenades near a shop run by a Jew adjacent to the Ibrahim Mosque.

Al Rai newspaper added that Israeli authorities had tightened security measures in the city after discovering two rocket launchers in the backyard of a girl's school.

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CYRUS VANCE ARRIVES IN AMMAN TOMORROW

The realist with a streak of moralism opens new era

WASHINGTON, D.C. (USIS) — America's 57th Secretary of State, Cyrus Roberts Vance, is not new to the conference rooms of Washington or negotiating tables around the world. Vance's new position at Foggy Bottom caps two decades of government service in which he drew up the legal basis for America's space programme, rose to the second highest office in the Pentagon and became President Johnson's chief diplomatic troubleshooter, dispatched to hotspots across the United States and around the world.

From Capitol Hill to Whitehall to the Quai d'Orsay, the appointment of the urbane West Virginia-born lawyer has brought near-unanimous praise. New York Times' Leslie Gelb observed that "what Mr. Carter and his aides heard about... Mr. Vance when they telephoned around the country was that he was solid, a healer... who strongly favoured détente with the Soviet Union... and arms control; a skilled negotiator who used no gimmicks, self-effacing, a realist who worked within a consensus but who had a streak of moralism."

Perhaps indicating the shape of things to come, eminent statesman and diplomat Averell Harriman, Vance's senior negotiating partner during the Vietnam peace talks in the late 1960s, said: "He's a man who thoroughly understands that the president is responsible for foreign policy and that his responsibility is to implement it." In other capitals, the selection was seen as a sign that U.S. foreign policy would remain fundamentally unchanged, that in Vance envoys would be dealing with a known quantity with proven competence in foreign affairs. "We know him

well. We respect him greatly. He is at once hard-headed, tough and liberal, was the response in London. France's Foreign Minister, Louis de Guiringaud, applauded Carter's nomination of a "man of finesse and tact and intelligence." In Tokyo: "We feel Mr. Vance's world thinking is well-balanced."



Announcing his first cabinet appointment in December, then President-elect Carter said he had received "almost unanimous" recommendations for Vance from those consulted in the U.S. and abroad, and termed his new man a "superb adviser and negotiator, a level-headed administrator and manager."

The two had met when Carter, then Governor of Georgia, was approached by Vance when the latter was promoting the United Negro College fund. Over the years, Carter consulted with Vance on various matters and the two developed a liking for each other. In 1973 they both became members of the Trilateral Commission, a group under the auspices of David Rockefeller that seeks to promote closer ties among Japan and the countries of Western Europe and North America. By early 1976, Vance was a member of the "Foreign Policy Task Force" assembled by candidate Carter. Moreover, in recent years, Vance has been championing many interests also espoused by Carter: Reemphasising a sense of morality for the U.S. globally; checking the spread of U.S. weaponry; and rebuilding with the public and Congress a consensus for sustaining American policy overseas.

Vance's views on a number of subjects, including the Middle East, were probed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during the nominee's mid-January confirmation hearings. After emphasising a need for increased morality in foreign policy and vowing a pledge to "come completely clean" with Congress on foreign policy matters, Vance became Secretary of State by unanimous vote. During the hearings he predicted that "foreign policy will be increasingly intertwined with domestic economic policy," adding that these concerns "will replace some of the security issues which have dominated foreign policy for the past 10 or 20 years."

He cited economic development, energy, food, population and environment because they

will determine "how -- or whether -- the next generation will live."

Below are some Vance foreign policy views, based on statements he has made since nomination and during Senate hearings:

—Soviet Union: Nothing is more important than "getting SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) out of the doldrums. Progress in the SALT negotiations is a matter of paramount importance." But the U.S., he cautions, must be careful not to give the impression to its allies that it is more interested in pleasing its foes than in reconciling its friends. He has often said that more emphasis should be placed on improving relations with allies.

Cyrus Vance on the Middle East: "Our diplomatic efforts in this area must be given highest priority; peace in this region must be at the top of our agenda; it is 'proper and reasonable to say' that a peace conference should take place."

—Middle East: "...Our diplomatic efforts in this area must be given highest priority; peace in this region must be at the top of our agenda; it is 'proper and reasonable to say' that a peace conference should take place" in 1977.

—World economy: This, Vance feels, is "terribly important" to prevent world economic chaos.

—Human rights: "These principles should permeate our foreign policy thinking and there will be 'greater emphasis' on governmental support for human rights in U.S. aid considerations."

Secretary Vance's seventh floor suite at the State Department overlooking the Potomac River is a long way from Clarksburg, West Virginia, where he was born on March 27, 1917. To John Carter and Amy Roberts Vance. His mother, who died recently at 80, organised the first symphony concert in Clarksburg. His father, who died when Cyrus was 5 years old, was a close

friend of John W. Davis, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1924.

Cyrus was first sent to school in Switzerland, where he learned French, then to the Kent School, in Connecticut, where he was active in student body politics and sports. His crewing coach remembered him as "very aggressive, but a perfect sport and gentleman." He enjoyed ice hockey, too, a sport he continued when he entered Yale in 1936. A hockey injury was the beginning of a chronic back problem that later led to two operations for ruptured spinal discs and the necessity of wearing a steel back brace. Associates report that he has borne the pain with stoicism and good humour.

After leaving Yale Law School, Vance enlisted as a midshipman in the U.S. Navy. He was released from active service March 28, 1946, with the rank of lieutenant, senior grade. He pronounced his navy service "a good life. I enjoyed it."

From 1946-47, Vance worked as assistant to the president at the Dayton, Ohio-based, Mead Corporation, manufacturers of paper products, but left in 1947—the same year he married art student Grace Sloane and was admitted to the New York Bar—to practice law with the New York firm of Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett, today renamed Simpson and Thacher. After becoming a partner on Jan. 1, 1956, he specialised in civil litigation, usually in the preparation of cases, until he left the firm six years later to become General Counsel for the Department of Defence.

Vance's government service was launched, in effect, by a Soviet rocket—the Sputnik, put

into orbit in October 1957, prompting the U.S. Senate to create a Special Preparedness Subcommittee to investigate the American satellite and missile programme. Its chairman was then Senate majority leader Lyndon B. Johnson, and Vance went to Washington as special counsel to assist in widely publicised hearings on missiles and weapons.

Senator Johnson prevailed upon Vance to stay on; in 1958 he was made Counsel to the Senate's Special Committee on Space and Aeronautics and in that capacity drafted the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 which created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and laid the administrative groundwork for America's Space Programme.

In government service, Vance used what friends insist is a photographic memory for written material and he won a reputation for painstaking research. Said a colleague of his: "He operates quietly. Nobody outworks him...he goes to most meetings with more facts than anybody else there." One old friend observed: "He is not a man who argues and shouts to make his point. But he makes it."

In 1959 Vance became Associate Counsel to the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee and conducted preliminary hearings on the Defence Department budget. The next year he served as Associate Special Counsel during hearings on missiles, space and other defence matters, conducting an inquiry into the comparative reliability of U.S. and Soviet missiles and space satellite programming for United States.

During the subcommittee hearings in 1957 Vance often took his turn questioning witnesses, but little attention was focussed on him. A participant recalls: "Vance was around for two weeks before many of us realised he was there." But he had made a favourable impression and when the Democrats took office under President John F. Kennedy in 1961, he was asked if he would like a job in the Department of Defence. He indicated he would like a service secretary job, preferably navy, since he'd been a naval officer in World War II. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara agreed that Vance's credentials were impressive, but insisted that all service secretaries have administrative experience and, since Vance hadn't appointed him General Counsel to the Defence Department.

In that capacity, he worked on a variety of planning studies, including the project on management of common supplies and services which led to the establishment of the Defence Supply Agency in 1961. An aide in the General Counsel's Office once asked him to specify requirements for doing a good job at the Pentagon. Vance quickly replied: "Good staff and good judgement." He might have added, by his own example, long hours. He was tagged by one associate as "the only man in the Pentagon who comes earlier and stays later than the Secretary of Defence."

Vance explained: "There is so much work to be done. You could work 24 hour a day and never do everything that needs to be done." Vance believed in economy of words, spoken and written. In Washington, he enjoyed a reputation for candour, emotional stability, fairness, and a good comprehension of people. One admiring colleague reported that "he can say 'no' more nicely than anyone I've ever met."

While General Counsel he also worked with the army on its reorganisation study. When Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., resigned as Secretary of the Army, Cyrus Vance was Secretary McNamara's personal choice to succeed Stahr. Vance became the seventh Secretary of the Army July 5, 1962.

As Secretary, Vance supervised revitalisation of the army and other cost-effective reforms. The Washington Post observed he had an "adroit touch as a civilian leader of military men."

Secretary McNamara made Vance his number two—Deputy Secretary of Defence—Jan. 18, 1964, a position he held until June 10, 1967. During his first year on the job, President Johnson launched Vance's career as a troubleshooter par excellence.

He sent him to quell hostilities after the anti-U.S. riots in Panama, where a basic agreement was laid for the extensive treaty negotiations that have continued.

When civil war broke out in the Dominican Republic the following year, the unflappable lawyer maintained, under fire, an evenhanded negotiating role that brought the conflict to an end.

During the long, hot summer of 1967, President Johnson again gave him top trouble-



shooter an assignment, this time domestic: put an end to racial violence in Detroit. Vance was credited with developing a "humanitarian" plan for federal control of disorders that depended on a minimum of violence by the use of overwhelming law enforcement manpower as a substitute for gunpower.

His plan was again utilised the following spring when civil disorders erupted in cities

across the country after April 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Late in 1967, he was dispatched as President Johnson's personal negotiator to talk Greeks and Turks out of going to war over Cyprus. It "the finest hour of Mr. Vance's past diplomatic career," the Christian Science Monitor said after Carter's announcement. "Some accounts credit Vance with almost singlehandedly taming a war."

Back in the U.S., Vance government service to re-law in order to earn the money his five teenaged children needed for college. President Johnson reluctantly accepted his resignation.

But within weeks of his departure from Washington Vance was recalled by President Johnson—for a special assignment to South Korea: the U.S.S. Pueblo was seized by North Korea in January 1968. In May 1968, he joined U.S. negotiator Averell Harriman at the Paris peace talks with the North Vietnamese. Vance, which, after 10 months seemed only to have staved off when the Republicans came to office and Vance turned his dossier to Henry C. Lodge. Vance's departing valedictorian: "I do believe even a settlement will come."

Summing up Vance's career, his former boss, U.S. Bank President McNamara said: "What Cy Vance brought to the job was integrity, honesty, a quiet fast courage of conviction. He also has a warm, wonky way of dealing with their most support... This sort of qualities... is fundamentally important in negotiating. The other side must confidence in you, and C the sort of integrity builds confidence."

Vance's accompanying officials

Philip C. Habib has held the post of Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs since July 1, 1971 when he succeeded Joseph J. Sisco who retired become President of American University.

Mr. Habib, a career Foreign Service Officer, was Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1974 to 1976. During the years 1971-1974, he was Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

From 1962-65 he was Counsellor for Political Affairs at Seoul. He was assigned to Saigon from 1965 to 1967, where he served as Political Officer with the personal rank of Minister. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1967 to 1969, and from 1968 to 1971 was Senior Adviser to the United States Delegation at the Peace meetings on Vietnam.

Alfred L. Atherton, Jr. has held his position Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs since April 1974. Since 1967 he served in the Bureau for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs in various positions dealing with Middle East, including Deputy Assistant Secretary. Mr. Atherton was appointed to the United States Foreign Service in 1947 at which time he served the American Consulate General in Stuttgart, West Germany. During his early foreign service career, completed diplomatic assignments in Stuttgart, Bonn, Damascus and Aleppo, Syria. He returned to Washington in 1958 and in 1961 was detailed to University of California for advanced economic studies.

His most recent overseas assignment was at United States Consulate General in Calcutta, India.

Harold H. Saunders has been Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research since December 1975.

Previous to his appointment to the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Mr. Saunders served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs from July 1974 until November 1975, where his special area of responsibility included the states of North Africa, the Arab states north of the Arabian peninsula and Israel. He came to the State Department from the National Security Council staff in the White House.

Hodding Carter is Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and State Department Spokesman.

Mr. Carter joined "The Delta-Democrat" in 1959 as a reporter and editorial writer. He became managing editor in 1962 and editor and associate publisher in 1965.

He is the author of the book "The So Strides Back," and co-authored four of books. He has written numerous articles in magazines and newspapers.

INVITATION FOR TENDER
NO. TCC 2/77
FOR THE JORDAN TELEX NETWORK

- The Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan invites the submission of tenders for the procurement, installation, testing and commissioning of equipment as a turn key project for the Jordan Telex Network. The equipment comprises of (1) an international electronic telex exchange in Amman and (2) twelve (12) time division multiplexers, six (6) in Amman, two (2) in Irbid, three (3) in Aqaba and one (1) in Zarqa, and (3) sixty six (66) voice frequency carrier telegraph (VFCT) channels, thirty six (36) in Amman, twenty four (24) in Irbid, four (4) in Madaba and two (2) in Jerash. Tenderers are kindly requested to offer for all three (3) items as an integrated turn key project as per the proposed plan in the specifications. Tenderers shall include for the training of corporation staff in the operation and maintenance of the offered equipment. Tenderers shall make proposals for this training, that is, duration, number of staff, location etc.
- Numbers of obtain the tender documents from the Telecommunications Corporation in Amman for a price of (J.D. 100) at the following address:
Secretary of Tender Committee
Telecommunications Corporation
Jabal Amman — Third Circle
P.O. Box 1689 — Telex : 1221
Cable : Jortel Amman
AMMAN — JORDAN
- The latest date of submission of proposals to the Telecommunications Corporation Headquarters in Amman is: 14:00 hours, Saturday 16th, April 1977.
- The tender documents consists of the following materials:
1. General conditions of contract.
2. Specification CTE1 — General requirements applicable to all tenders.
3. Specification CTE2 — Requirements for an electronic telex exchange in Amman, Jordan.
4. Specification CTE3 — Requirements for voice frequency carrier telegraph (VFCT) equipment in Jordan.
5. Specification CTE4 — Requirements for time division multiplex telegraph equipment in Jordan.
- All bidders will be required to deliver a bank guarantee of 5% of the bid as a bidding bond.
- Proposals should be submitted in three copies each in a closed envelope sealed with red wax and its cover labelled with the words: "Proposal for the Jordan Telex Network, Tender No. TCC 2/77." Original, 1st copy and 2nd copy.
- Any subsequent amendments will automatically be forwarded to purchasers of the tender documents.

Eng. MOH'D SHAHID ISMAIL
Director General
Telecommunications Corporation
Amman — Jordan

CAR FOR SALE

FIAT 132 S - 1800 — Mid-1974

48,000 kms — in perfect condition.

Price : JD 2,300.— cash.

Contact : Tel. 39181, Amman.

LEARN ARABIC AT THE HOUSE
OF LANGUAGES

Near 2nd Circle — Phone 41986.

A class for beginners will be started in the House of Languages at 4:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd.

A l'occasion du 1er anniversaire du décès de
M. PIERRE LAVERGNE,
Conseiller Culturel Français,

une messe sera célébrée pour le repos de son âme et de celle de son épouse, le Vendredi 18 février 1977, à 11 h. du matin, à l'église latine, de Jabal Luweibdeh. La famille du défunt et la famille Uwaychek invitent les amis et les connaissances de M. et Mme. Lavergne à assister à la célébration de cette messe.

RESTAURANT
TAIWAN TOURISMO

Announces a special family dinner of genuine Chinese cuisine and a special menu for the New Year 1977. Special take-out orders.

TEL. 61640 — SHEIKHAN, AMMAN

LA CASA

JABAL AMMAN, 5th. CIRCLE

Modern, Italian-made, seating corner with table (8 pieces) for only J.D. 525

مركز الصناعات

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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vulnerable. North

NORTH
A 64
82
K 10963
83

EAST
10852
J 75
J 8
Q 765

SOUTH
K 7
A 106
72
A 1094
iding:
East South West
Pass 1 Pass
Pass 1 Pass
Pass 3NT Pass
Pass
g lead: Three of ♠.

Bols Bridge tipsters
doing each other.
er Olov Sundelin sug-
hat, in many cases, it
to refuse to win a
th the king. Now, in
th entry of the Bols
Tips Competition,
Lebel, the young
star who is known al-
s much for the speed
play as for his bril-
goes even further in
nending possible
r-measures to shut
nny's long suit.

bidding is fairly
forward. Though
has the strength for a

one no trump opening bid, he
refrained from that action
because of his weak double-
ton. When North showed
sound values and a good dia-
mond suit. South chose the
no trump game.

The low heart opening
lead was covered by the jack
and taken by the king. De-
clarer led a diamond to the
nine and Lebel, sitting East,
ducked in tempo! Not sur-
prisingly, declarer pre-
sumed that he had taken a
successful finesse. There-
fore, he returned to his hand
with the queen of spades and
continued with a diamond to
the ten.

Now Lebel won the jack,
and the diamond suit was
dead. There was only one
entry to dummy, and the ace
of diamonds still had to be
knocked out. Declarer strug-
gled fitfully for a while be-
fore conceding down two.

Note that had East won
the jack of diamonds when
the suit was first played, de-
clarer would have had all the
time in the world to set up
the diamonds while the ace
of spades was in dummy as
an entry. The contract would
have rolled home easily.

Lebel's Bols tip: Some-
times you should hold up the
jack of a suit declarer is try-
ing to establish even when
you hold no higher card in
the suit!

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



LONG DROP -- Fire briga-
des in several cities in West
Germany have recently simu-
lated skyscraper fires to test

procedures and equipment.
The emergency routines were
carried out for the Ministry
of Housing to find out, for
instance, how long it takes

to evacuate a 23-storey of-
fice block like the Marnes-
mann building in Düsseldorf
(photo), where more than
500 people work. Instead of

the old-style firemen's blan-
ket, volunteers jumped down
to jumbo mattresses.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A time to wind up
whatever have placed in motion but not completed.
Tomorrow starts a new cycle so be prepared for new
activity. Use tact in dealing with others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study the actions of friends
and strive for increased harmony. Show others that you
are an excellent citizen. Be wise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do nothing that could
jeopardize your good reputation. Make sure you handle
credit affairs wisely. Make the evening a charming one in
the company of family members.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A new plan you have in
mind needs more study before putting it in operation.
Take no chances where your credit is concerned.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make sure
you are conscientious in the handling of duties or you
could get into trouble. Be more cheerful.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Make certain you keep
promises made to others or you could get into serious
trouble. Be careful of intruders.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your work load is heavy
but dig in and it will soon be behind you. An annoying
outside situation is best forgotten.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Show true devotion to
close ties and keep harmony intact. Be practical by
avoiding temptation to overspend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Do nothing at home that
could decrease harmony there. A new plan you have in
mind needs further study to be successful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Control your
temper where some small matter is concerned or it
could be more serious. Relax tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't neglect to
handle routine duties early in the day. Plan needed repairs
to property. Take health treatments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Know what your
personal aims are and go after them in a positive fashion.
Show increased devotion to loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Although you could have a
gripe with a higher-up, this is not the right day to air.
Avoid a foe who could give you trouble.

GRAFFITI



TELL THE
LANDLORD
WHICH COLOR
SCHEME YOU
PREFER
HE'LL LEND YOU
THE CRAYONS

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND
Waller

"I've enjoyed our little chat, Sue — but we mustn't
keep your husband waiting any longer."

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

FEATURE FILM :

LORD JIM

Cast: Peter O'Toole, James Mason,
Curt Jurgens, Eli Wallach

A ship's officer in the Mercantile Marines, after a dishonour-
able discharge, searches for a second chance that takes him
deep into the jungles where a feudal warlord is terrorising
the peace-loving native population.

YOUNG DR. KILDARE :
NATURE OF THE BEAST

Dr. Kildare vainly tries to convince famous writer to abstain
from drinking to save his life.

MAKE THE JORDAN TIMES WORK FOR YOU

An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen
by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.
Don't you have anything to say to them?

To spread your word, contact the Jordan Times
advertising department by phone at 67171, or in person
at the Jordan Times - Al Ra'i building, on University
Road.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

amble these four Jumbles;
or to each square, to form
binary words.

AGIL

ECHO

STIE

RQUO

Now arrange the circled letters to
form the surprise answer, as sug-
gested by the above cartoon.

at answer here: A

Jumbles: JOLLY GUILD CHOSEN BAMBOO

Answer: If you're this, you're not likely to be
successful in the rat race — "MOUSY"

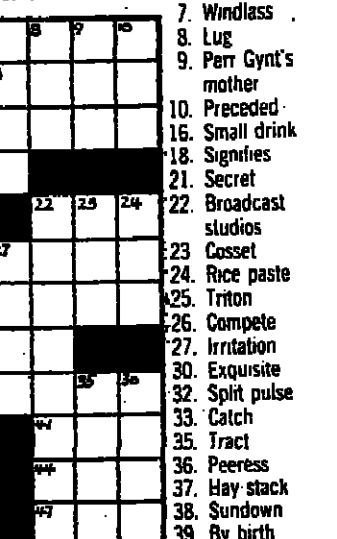
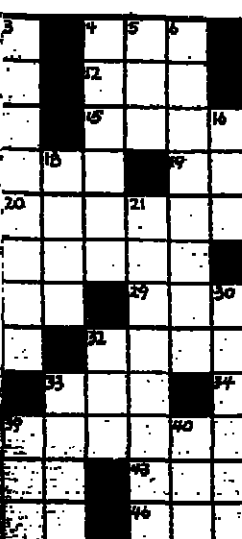
POSSWORD PUZZLE

28. Skin driver's gear
29. Having left a wife
31. Nicklaus uses one
32. Remove
33. Distant
34. Glass container
37. Impure opal
41. Medieval money
42. Oast
43. Blade
44. Man's nickname
45. Nettle
46. Tease
47. Iterate

NAME DO ACER
OLOR ER FREE
MILE RAFTERS
ABE QITE PIE
DISCOVER TED
TOME VI RA
PO OP VERA
ACT EMINENCE
STE TACT NEW
TANGENT TULE
EVOE GO HAIR
LENS OR ELAS

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1. Organ reed stop
2. Allege
3. Small rich cake
4. Demean
5. Milkish
6. Mad
7. Windlass
8. Lug
9. Perr Gyn's mother
10. Preceded
11. Small drink
12. Signifies
13. Secret
14. Broadcast
15. Gasket
16. Rice paste
17. Triton
18. Complete
19. Irritation
20. Exquisite
21. Split pulse
22. Catch
23. Fract
24. Peers
25. Hay stack
26. Sundown
27. By birth
28. Japanese porry



AP Newsfeatures

2-17

OUT AND ABOUT

THE CROWN ROTISSERIE

Hotel Jordan Intercontinental. Open daily for Executive
Luncheon 1-3 p.m. Special
International Buffet on Sun-
days. Dinner with live music
from 7 p.m. to midnight. For
reservation please call 41361
ext. 5.

QUICK MEAL

Restaurants for broasted
chicken and light snacks.
Take home, lunch or dinner.
Jabal Amman, First Circle.
Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luwelb-
deh, Ilawuz Circle. Tel. 30646
Jabal Al Hussein, near Jeru-
salem Cinema. Tel. 21781.
Also in Zarka and Irbid.

CHINESE RESTAURANT

First Chinese restaurant in
Jordan.
First Circle, Jabal Amman, near
the Abiyah School or CMS.
Tel. 38968. Open daily from
noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
to midnight.
Also take home service - order
by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT

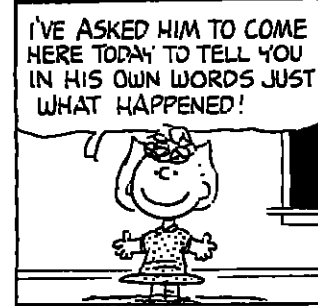
First Circle, Jabal Amman.
Tel. 25592.
Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Restaurant, coffee-shop, sn-
ack bar and patisserie.
Oriental and European spe-
cialties.

JOJO'S STEAKHOUSE

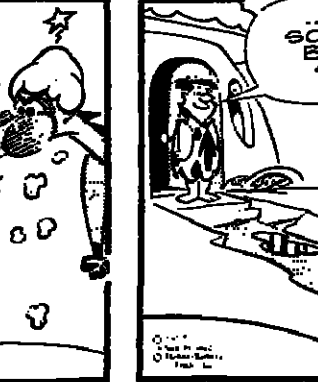
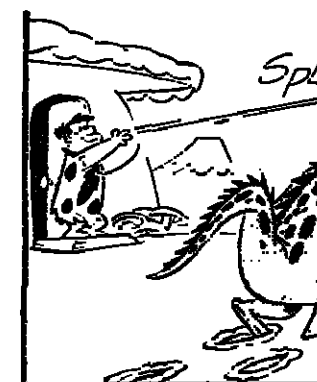
Firas Wings Hotel, Jabal
Al Luwelbdeh. Tel. 22103/4.
Choice of THREE set me-
nus daily for lunch, and a
la carte.
Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12
p.m. Specialty: steaks.

For advertising in above columns contact
"Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38969.
Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

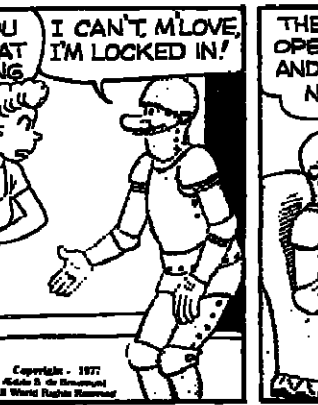
PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



Congressman Bingham: Cuba is willing to cooperate with U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (AFP). — Cuba is ready to cooperate with the United States in several fields including fishing rights, agriculture, sports and cultural exchanges, according to a statement by Democratic Congressman Jonathan Bingham published in the New York Times today.

Mr. Bingham, who represents New York State, had nearly eight hours of talks in Havana last weekend with Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

He said Mr. Castro expressed willingness to hold talks with the Carter administration on the extension of the Cuban and U.S. coastal fishing zones to 200 miles, on cultural and sporting exchanges and on joint efforts to combat sugar cane blight.

Mr. Bingham, who visited the Communist-ruled Caribbean island as chairman of a Subcommittee of the House of Representatives' International Relations Committee, added: "The essence of it is there are several subjects that can and should be discussed without any preconditions immediately."

Dr. Castro still believed the United States should lift completely its trade embargo on Cuba before a resumption of diplomatic relations, broken off 16 years ago, could be considered, he said.

Cuba also regarded the reactivation and renewal of the anti-hijacking agreement between the two countries as dependent on the lifting of the American embargo, Mr. Bingham went on.

The agreement, due to expire on April 15 this year was annulled by Cuba last October after a Cuban airliner was blown up in mid-air near Barbados, killing 79 people.

Dr. Castro, according to the U.S. congressman, was "extremely friendly" towards President Jimmy Carter, whom he admired.

British devolution referenda approved by House of Commons

LONDON, Feb. 16 (AFP). — The House of Commons today overwhelmingly approved the Labour government's plans to hold referenda in Scotland and Wales on whether these parts of the United Kingdom should have their own assemblies.

The vote of 231 to 24 came after a debate in which Mr. Michael Foot, leader of the House, announced an important government concession to the opposition.

He told the House yesterday that the referenda would be consultative and not mandatory, and that parliament would have the final word on the issue of devolution of power to Scotland and Wales.

For the Soviet delegation, headed by Fisheries Minister Alexander Ishkov, will be negotiating with an EEC team led by Mr. David Owen, Minister of State in the British Foreign Office, and Mr. Finn Oval Gundelach, the Danish EEC Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries.

Officially, the Moscow government has so far only been in contact with Britain over the issue. Britain, which is Chairman of the EEC Council up to June 30, has made it clear that it has been acting on behalf of the "nine".

And by agreeing to come to Brussels for the negotiations, the USSR has at least tacitly accepted to be seated at the same table as the EEC Commission, according to the view of EEC officials here.

This appears as yet another indication that the EEC as such and the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies, grouped in Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance), may be moving towards a normalisation of their relations.

Comecon a year ago proposed the conclusion of a wide-ranging cooperation agreement covering trade, economic as well as technical and scientific cooperation between the two sides, but received a cautious response from the EEC.

The EEC hinted that in an initial phase it would be prepared to exchange statistical data with the Comecon.

But it made it clear that it preferred negotiating trade agreements separately with individual Comecon members rather than with the organisation as such.

Comecon has disagreed with this approach. Last November, the Netherlands, which was then EEC Council Chairman, asked in a note exactly what

Krupp, Iran conclude barter deal

ESSEN, West Germany, Feb. 16 (R). — Krupp, the West German industrial group, said yesterday it had concluded a barter deal with Iran under which it would obtain crude oil in return for industrial equipment.

A spokesman for the concern declined to give details but reliable industry sources said the agreement involved 4.5 tons worth around 1.08 billion marks (£250 million), being delivered to Krupp and resold to the Belgian oil company Petrofina.

The West German firm has agreed to build a steel plant near Isfahan in northern Iran, estimated to be worth nearly \$3 billion.

It was announced last October that Iran had taken out a 25.01 per cent stake in Krupp, but the spokesman said yesterday the barter arrangement was not connected with the payment of this since Iran was settling its bill in cash.

Prices rose for the third straight session in fairly active trading Wednesday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average gained about 4 points. However, the market had gained as much as 10 points during the afternoon and settled for a moderate advance after a sharp last hour decline.

Investors had been initially encouraged by the announcement of a dividend increase made by American Telephone and Telegraph, which is by far the nation's most widely held stock.

However, an announcement during the afternoon of a sharp 27 per cent decline for housing starts in January was apparently responsible for the sudden drop late in the session.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a 880 to 563 margin as most groups of shares closed on a steady tone.

At the close the industrial average shows at 948.31, a gain of 3.99 points. Times at 225.90, a gain of 1.57; utilities at 106.95, a gain of 1.12. 23,430,000 shares changed hands of which 4,610,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market firmed Wednesday, helped by a technical fall in money market interest rates and the relative firmness in sterling, dealers said. Closing levels were below the day's highs in reaction to news that one of the three railmen's unions was also against continued pay restraint.

Overall trading was light and at 1500 the F.T. index was up 8.3 at 384.4.

Government bonds showed net raises of up to one half point while equity leaders advanced. Gold shares ended narrowly higher. Banks led the advance among equities with Midland and Lloyds each 12p higher while Barclays and Natwest added 10p apiece. Tube Investments, Thorn, Decca, Guest Keen, Fisons, Glaxo and Unilever gained between 6p and 10p. B.P. finished 2p harder after an irregular trend and Shell firmed 5p.

Albright and Wilson was 2p off its high of 94 despite results above expectations. General Accident gave up a small gain following its estimated U.S. results.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at 135.90.

North, South Yemeni leaders discuss steps towards unity

SANA'A, Feb. 16 (R). — The leaders of North and South Yemen met yesterday — the first such talks since President Ibrahim Al Hamdi took power here in North Yemen in 1974, Sana'a Radio reported last night.

President Hamdi met South Yemeni President Salem Rubaye' Ali at Qatabah, on the mountainous frontier between the two south Arabian republics.

Sana'a Radio described the meeting as a step towards unity between the two countries, which were one land before the British established a colony in Aden in the 19th century.

The two leaders met in private to discuss the work of joint committees on Yemeni unity. Observers here expected the meeting would improve relations between Sana'a and Aden, which have sometimes been strained.

The radio said President Hamdi met the Southern Yemeni leader when he arrived by special aircraft from Aden. Local residents surrounded the building where they met and cheered Yemeni unity, it added.

President Rubaye' Ali last visited North Yemen about three years ago. Since Col. Hamdi took power in a bloodless coup they have only met at Arab summit conferences elsewhere.

kind of agreement the Comecon countries would like to conclude. Britain, the present Council Chairman, received word earlier this month that Comecon's reply will be forwarded soon.

EEC sources here said the EEC-Soviet fisheries talks which started today might open the door for talks on relations between the two economic groupings in other areas.

As for the problem which has arisen between the EEC and the USSR, observers here believe it will be hard to settle.

The Soviet Union had not accepted the provisional system of catch quotas and mandatory licences for Soviet trawlers which the EEC wants to apply until the end of next March.

The EEC allocated the Soviet fishing fleet a quota of no more than 38,500 tons of fish inside the 200-mile zone in the first three months of this year, and ruled that no more than 27 Soviet and Eastern European trawlers should be allowed to operate inside this zone at any time.

The USSR has so far disregarded these restrictions. Official sources here said that 50 to 60 Soviet trawlers have been operating inside the EEC zone recently. But neither British nor Dutch surveillance vessels have intervened so far.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 16 (R). — The European Common Market will provide Lebanon with 30 million Units of Account (\$33 million) in loans and grants over the next five years, community officials said here today. Negotiations have been completed on a general trade and aid agreement between the EEC and Lebanon which includes preferential access to the Common Market for Lebanese exports and technical and industrial cooperation, the officials said.

PARIS, Feb. 16 (R). — President Carter has told France he wants an amicable settlement of the dispute over New York landing rights for the Concorde airliner, the French presidential spokesman said today. The assurance came in a long message to President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, which the French plan to publish later today. Presidential Spokesman Jean-Philippe Lecat told reporters that Mr. Carter's "indicated his concern to deal with this problem in a manner which reflects the close friendship between France and the United States."

TEHRAN, Feb. 16 (AFP). — Inflation is now running at an annual rate of 30 per cent in Iran, according to the official index released by the Central Bank. Consumer prices and services rose by 2.8 per cent during the Iranian month of Dey (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) but the cost of housing has weighed most heavily on the price index, the Central Bank said. The cost of living has risen by 23 per cent on average over the past three months, compared with the October level, according to the bank's figures. During the last Iranian year — from March 1975 to March 1976 — price increases were brought down to six per cent by means of a price freeze for consumer goods and a reduction of the profit margin of industry.

MADRID, Feb. 16 (AFP). — Spanish gold and foreign currency reserves have fallen to their lowest level in seven years with a January drop of \$153,900,000 to \$4,798,200,000. At one point in 1973 reserves totalled \$6,717,300,000. In the past 13 months the loss has been \$1,107,200,000. Large scale oil purchases at the new rates set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were believed to be a major factor in January.

KUWAIT, Feb. 16 (R). — The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic and Social Development last night concluded two agreements to finance projects in Egypt and the Cameroun, with the loans totalling about 12 million dinars (£24 million).

PARIS, Feb. 16 (R). — Libyan Industry Minister Jeddallah Azouzi Al Talhi and French External Trade Minister Andre Rossi yesterday agreed to step up economic cooperation between their countries. The two ministers conferred during a meeting of the Franco-Libyan Economic Commission, which was set up in March last year.

Waldheim: All sides to Mideast conflict want peace talks resumed

VIENNA, Feb. 16 (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said yesterday prospects for negotiations on the Middle East had improved.

"All sides have said they are interested in resuming negotiations," Dr. Waldheim told the Austrian Foreign Policy Association.

The U.N. Secretary general, a former Austrian foreign minister, is on an official visit to Vienna after a tour of Middle East capitals to sound out Arab and Israeli leaders on resuming the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

Dr. Waldheim, in a prepared text for his talk last night, said it was impossible for various reasons to think of reconvening the Geneva conference last year.

At the beginning of this year, however, the conditions appear to be more favourable for a new start in the negotiating process," he declared.

Dr. Waldheim said a lasting settlement in the Middle East would still take months — perhaps years — to achieve.

"All must be done to get the negotiations moving again. My contacts with the two co-chairmen of the Geneva conference — namely the United States and the Soviet Union — have strengthened my purpose," he said.

On relations between the world's rich and poor countries, the secretary general said concrete measures were needed to shift nations "from the confrontation of short-term interests to cooperation by the pursuit of common long-term goals."

Ecuadorian paper suggests reasons for U.S. veto on Israeli sale of Kfir jets

QUITO, Feb. 16 (R). — The newspaper La Razon said yesterday the United States ban on the sale of Israeli planes to Ecuador was in retaliation for Ecuador's moves to prevent U.S. trawlers from fishing illegally in Ecuadorian waters.

La Razon said in an editorial that "because of the tension caused in recent years by the illegal fishing by U.S. boats in Ecuadorian waters, Ecuador has been sanctioned by a ban on the purchase of war materials of U.S. origin."

The 24 Israeli Kfir fighter-bombers Ecuador wanted to buy have American engines.

La Razon said the U.S. had also taken action against Ecuador because this South American nation had joined the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This was a reference to the U.S. Foreign Trade Law passed last year which barred OPEC member-nations from tariff benefits.

The U.S. banned the sale of the Kfir planes to Ecuador on the grounds that the transfer of advanced and sophisticated weapons into Latin America ran counter to U.S. policy.

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Ugandan refugee says Amin launches wave of terror

NAIROBI, Feb. 16 (AFP). — A refugee arriving here from Gulu in northern Uganda has described a wave of terror carried out by President Idi Amin's troops against civilians in the northern areas where he says, hundreds have died in the past few weeks.

The Ugandan also rejected President Amin's statement on Radio Uganda denying that the archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi had been arrested.

The archbishop was taken from his house in Kampala under arrest a week ago, Ugandan church sources confirmed.

According to the Gulu witness, the Anglican bishop of Tororo was also arrested and was still missing. "He is believed to be detained at Nakasero, headquarters of the State Research Unit, or dead," the Ugandan said.

He said numbers of former Ugandan army officers had fled to Zaire in the past two weeks and hundreds of Ugandan citizens had been killed "indiscriminately" in the northern towns. The massacres started after the reported discovery of a plot to oust President Amin's regime on the eve of the sixth anniversary last month of his military takeover, a plot in which the Ugandan leader has implicated the church.

Ugandan informant claimed he was in Gulu when troops in battle dress landed there armed with machine guns and began killing people, including women and children.

"Shots were fired and arrests were made," the witness said. "I counted 34 bodies in the streets and nine people were gunned down at Gulu Lodge including the owner."

Security forces had combed the whole of northern Uganda in the past two weeks killing and arresting leading businessmen, former politicians, government officers and retired or sacked army officers.

Among those arrested was the former Public Service and Cabinet Affairs Minister Mr. Oumji, a lawyer named Ochola and the colonel formerly in charge of signals at army headquarters, the Ugandan witness said. He alleged that an operation aimed at clearing northern Uganda of all opposition to President Amin was still going on.

According to another report in Nairobi, the president's adviser on police matters, Mr. Anywa, was killed and his legless body dumped near the police barracks in Kampala, at the spot where a hand grenade was hurled at President Amin in an unsuccessful coup a year ago.

The Ugandan Embassy in Washington has also protested against the ban.

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